



BELL BAXTER HIGH SCHOOL

Weekly Update Monday 2nd March, 2020

WHOLE SCHOOL MESSAGES

School Inspection

As you know, week beginning 17th February we had an especially busy week working with the Inspection Team from Education Scotland. Inspectors visited 70 lessons, spoke with parents, staff, partners and young people. Verbal feedback from the team shared at the end of their visit highlighted the quality of the work we are doing in key areas and the positive early impact this is having for our young people.

Inspectors will now work to pull together their written report, which we anticipate will be published at the end of April. We look forward to sharing that with you at that time.

In the meantime I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the inspection. I'd particularly like to thank our staff team and young people for their time in welcoming our visitors to our school and sharing their experiences of life at Bell Baxter.

Carol Ann Penrose, Rector

Staffing Update

There will be a number of posts being advertised over the next few weeks to fill promoted positions which are currently vacant and/or filled on a temporary basis. These include PT Health and Well-being (permanent replacement for Mr Lowrie); PT Guidance (S4); DHT position (permanent replacement for Mr Gibbons). After a period of discussions with staff since January, I am pleased to share that there will also be a further two permanent DHT positions advertised as part of our reviewed management structure. The key aim of these additional depute posts will be to develop the strategic capacity of the senior team and support middle leaders in helping drive forward change and improvement in outcomes for our young people.

Carol Ann Penrose, Rector

Attendance

As part of our ongoing drive to improve attendance, we are enhancing our procedures to include a second alert should a young person not arrive in class Period 5 after lunch. Groupcall attendance alerts will now be sent to parents Period 1 in the morning **and** Period 5 in the afternoon. Your support in ensuring the highest possible standards in terms of attendance and punctuality is very much appreciated.

Fairtrade Fortnight

A reminder of this year's Fairtrade Fortnight events, organised by Bell Baxter Global Goals Group.

This year's focus is on women's empowerment, a living income and helping cocoa farmers deal with the impact of climate change.



- Fairtrade Tuckshop at interval on **Friday 6th March**.
- The Annual Staff v Pupil Fairtrade Football Match has been postponed until **Friday 13th March**.
- A Fairtrade Rose Tea for staff and community partners at interval on **Friday 6th March**.
- Fairtrade cakes and treats for sale in the Conference Room at interval on **Friday 6th March**.

There will also be an extended interval on **Friday 13th March** to celebrate the end of our Fairtrade Fortnight!

Thank you for your support.

Coronavirus

You may be aware that there has been much news about a new strain of coronavirus called COVID-19 which was first identified in January. There have currently been no identified cases in Scotland and there is no evidence that children are more affected than any other group – in fact, very few cases have been reported in children at all. We are not expecting this issue to affect our school but we will continue to monitor the situation and put plans in place to keep our young people and staff safe.

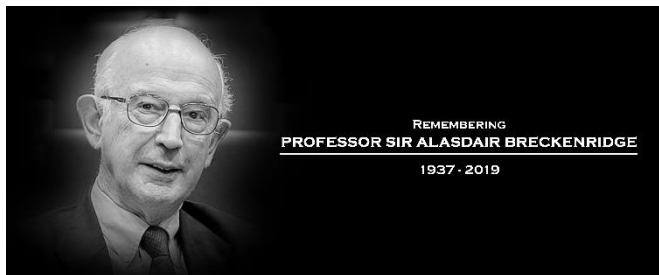
The general principles to keep yourself free from any virus are to practice good hygiene (wash your hands regularly, catch coughs and sneezes in a tissue, discard tissues in a bin after use), avoid contact with unwell people, and if unwell yourself, stay at home and do not attend work or school. If you are concerned, phone NHS 24 in the first instance on 111.

People who have returned from [Category 1 countries/areas](#) in the last 14 days should self-isolate. This includes avoiding attending school or work until 14 days after you return. If symptoms do not appear within these 14 days you will be safe to return. Please advise the school of your child's absence during this time.

Keep up to date with all the latest public information on coronavirus by visiting www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus.

Obituary: Sir Alasdair Breckenridge

Former Bell Baxter pupil, Professor Sir Alasdair Muir Breckenridge, died, aged 82 on 12 December 2019, after a short illness.



Alasdair Breckenridge made a great personal contribution to UK academic medicine over 50 years, and can rightly be regarded as one of the giants of UK medicine in the 20th Century. He was one of a small group of individuals who established the medical specialty of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

Sir Alasdair attended Bell Baxter High School in Cupar, and obtained a Harkness Scholarship to study Medicine at the University of St Andrews in 1954.

For more information on Sir Alasdair's accomplishments visit his [University of Liverpool obituary](#).

REMINDERS

- **Prelims**

Prelims continue this week (up to and including **Friday 6th March**). Areas around the school will remain closed and we remind pupils to follow the signs and keep the noise down even over interval, lunch and after school so as not to disrupt anyone sitting exams.

- **Bell Baxter 'Colours' Awards**

Closing date for nominations is **Friday 13th March**. Visit the [school website](#) for more details.

- **Library Closure**

The Library will be closed up to and including **6th March**. There will be no access to return or borrow books, and seniors will have to find alternative accommodation.

CLUBS, EVENTS AND REHEARSALS

2020 Fife Schools Dirt and Road Crit Series – *LAST PLACES AVAILABLE*

There are still 4 x S1 places and 8 x S3 places available for an opportunity to experience a bike course on **Thursday 11th June from 10am – 12noon** at Lochore Meadows, Lochore, KY5 8BA.

Age: S1–S3 with different races for each age group (all participants in each age category race together). There will also be races for riders with additional support needs.



For all those that have already signed up please attend a meeting on **Wednesday 4th March** at interval in the PE department with the Active Schools Co-ordinator, Hayley Smith.

Scottish Disability Sport (SDS) 7-a-Side Football League

On Wednesday 19th February, the Bell Baxter Junior Team and the Bell Baxter/Madras Senior Team took part in the second round of the SDS Football League. Both teams played exceptionally well, especially the seniors who, because of illness, were playing with one man down. The final scores were one win and two draws for the junior team and 3 narrow defeats for the seniors. Congratulations to all the players involved!



Senior Netball

There will be a meeting in Gym 1 at 10.25 am on **Monday 2nd March** to confirm availability for our quarter final match against Woodmill High School taking place at SRUC Elmwood campus on Tuesday 3rd March.

S2 Netball

There will be a meeting in Gym 1 at 10.25 am on **Monday 2nd March** to confirm availability for the S2 Fife Netball Tournament at Michael Woods.



Fife Schools String Orchestra and Wind Band Rehearsal and Concert

The Fife Schools String Orchestra and Wind Band will be holding a 4 pm rehearsal at the Lochgelly Centre on **Tuesday 3rd March 2020** before their concert in the same venue that evening at 7 pm. A coach will collect those pupils in the orchestra/band from the bus stances at Bell Baxter High School car park at 3.15 pm on Tuesday to take them to the Lochgelly Centre.

Please note: There is no transport home provided after concert.

New Hockey Club



We are looking for pupils interested in joining a potential new Hockey Club. If you're interested, please sign up on **Monday 2nd March** at interval at the PE Base with the Active Schools Co-ordinator, Hayley Smith. If there are enough pupils wishing to take part we can take this forward.

Schoolgirls Golf Championship 2020



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Schoolgirls Championship 2020

Strathtyrum Course, Eden Course & Jubilee Course - St Andrews Links Trust
August 1-2, 2020

The Schoolgirls Championship is run by the University of St Andrews Golf Club. The event is fully supported by **The R&A, The St Andrews Links Trust** and the **University of St Andrews** and provides the opportunity for young female golfers to compete at **The Home of Golf**.

Entries for the 2020 Championship are now open

- **54 hole** event, open to all **school aged girls**
- Competitors must have an **official handicap of 24** and below
- **Strokeplay** competition for golfers with a handicap of 12 and below
- **Stableford** competition for golfers with a handicap between 12.1 and 24
- Competing for the **Renee Powell Cup** and **Carol Kaufman Shield**
- Entry is just **£75** per person
- Application forms can be downloaded from:
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/sport/sport/events/schoolgirlschampionship/

Contact:
Duncan Caithness
Assistant Director
(Sports Development)
T: +44 (0)1334 46 2175
E: sc2020@st-andrews.ac.uk



The University of St Andrews is a charity registered in Scotland: SC013532

Volunteer Wanted



The Community Fridge in Cupar provides good quality food that would otherwise go to waste!

The Fife Council initiative, which is operated out of the Cupar County Buildings, runs through the week as a drop-in service, offering a range of foods that have been collected from local businesses.

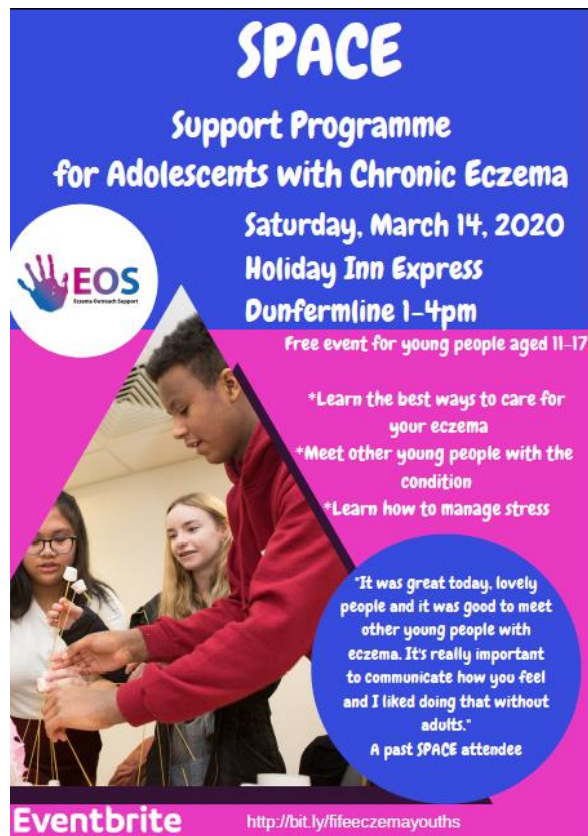
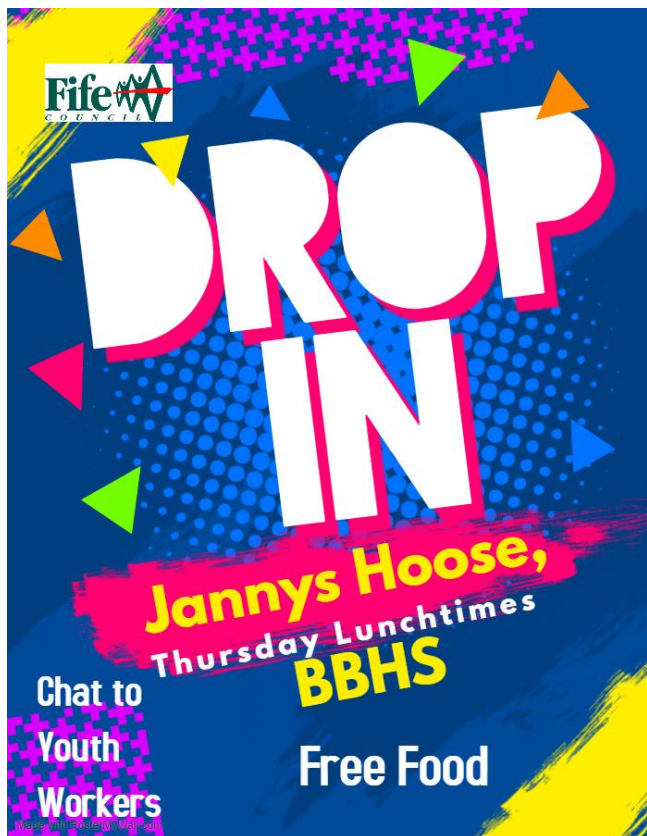
They are looking for a volunteer at present - if you are interested, please contact Community Education Worker Jill Todd at Jill.Todd@fife.gov.uk.

Appeal for Empty Shoe Boxes

A Cupar Community Group have started work on filling boxes for Christmas 2020 on behalf of Blythswood Care. This charity distributes approximately 110,000 boxes to the most deprived people across Eastern Europe and in Pakistan at Christmas time.

However, they are having a hard time finding empty shoe boxes to fill.

If anyone has any spare shoe (not boot) boxes, please hand them into the school office for the group to collect.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award



Well done to Jess Wylie (S3) who has completed her 'Skills' section of her Bronze DofE Award.

"My experience in learning Catering and Cooking Skills has been very helpful. I have learned how to follow recipes and present them to a good standard. I am now being given the opportunity to cook at home, which is good."

Jess Wylie (S3)



S1 - S3 MESSAGES

No new S1-S3 messages this week.

Study Leave for SQA Exams

The first exams in this year's SQA exam diet begin on **Monday 27th April**. This means that the last day in school for all young people in S4-S6 will be Friday 24th April. As always, 'Subject Masterclasses' will be running throughout Study Leave - we'll send you more details in the coming weeks.

All young people returning for S5 and S6 will be invited in for Senior Induction (more information will be sent out nearer the time) prior to them returning for the start of the new timetable on Wednesday 3rd June.

Assemblies

There will be course choice assemblies for S4 & S5 on **Thursday 5th March** as follows:

S4 – Period 1

S5 – Period 2

S4 & S5 Course Choice Information

S4 Course Choice – **Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th March**

S5 Course Choice – **Thursday 12th & Friday 13th March**

You should discuss your choices with your parents/carers.

Remember to bring your completed course choice form to your course counselling appointment.

Course Choice Assemblies – **Thursday 5th March** – S4: Period 1 & S5: Period 2

Course Choice Drop-In sessions – **Thursday 5th & Friday 6th March** during lunch in the Senior Guidance room.

Make an appointment to see SDS Careers Coach if necessary.

Log onto [My World of Work](#) to revisit your profile, skills and possible career matches.

Visit the [Bell Baxter Website](#) for information about course choices.

Law Society of Scotland – Legal Study and Careers Day 2020

The Law Society of Scotland are hosting a Legal Study and Careers event at Abertay University, Dundee, on **Wednesday 25th March** from 10 am until 3.30 pm for S4/S5 pupils who are interested in studying law and a career in the legal profession.

If you are interested in attending this event, please speak to your PT Guidance Teacher (S4 – Mr Duncan or S5 – Ms Cunneen) for more information and to book your place.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) Apprenticeship Events

SDS Fife are running two Apprenticeships Events for all parents, carers and pupils in S4 to S6 as well as post-school young people in Fife.

The locations of events and dates are:

Tuesday 3rd March 2020, 6pm-8pm at Dunfermline High School

Thursday 5th March 2020, 6pm-8pm at Auchmuty High School, Glenrothes



Representatives from a range of both local and national employers will be on-hand to discuss their work and highlight opportunities, while SDS advisers will be available to discuss routes and pathways and our support. Fife Council and Fife College are also supporting both events.

Booking is not necessary but if you want any further information please speak to the school's Careers Advisors, Alison and Sharon.

Medical Careers Event

A MEDICAL CAREERS EVENT

TUESDAY 10TH MARCH 2020



There's an opportunity for pupils from S3 to S5 with an interest in pursuing a career in the medical or caring professions, to attend an Open Evening featuring a series of informative talks.

The event will be held on Tues 10th March at 7pm in the Gibson Auditorium at Dollar Academy, and is open to all interested pupils and their parents, free of charge. The speakers will be:

Duncan Cooper, Medical Student, University of Edinburgh

Dr Jill Hepburn, GP, on the range of career opportunities in health care

Nicola Brown, Senior Theatre Nurse, Glasgow Royal Infirmary

Callum Cruickshank, Junior Doctor, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary

Joanna Fry, Education Liaison Officer, St Andrews University

There will also be an opportunity for pupils and parents to put questions to the panel.

The event will be hosted by the charity Jo's Trust, with the support of Dollar Academy. The charity aims to support young people who wish to embark on a medical career, as well as raising vital funds for brain cancer research.

For more information email Miller-KA@dollaracademy.org.uk or telephone 01259 742511.